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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: TREATMENT OF NAMES IN MULTILINGUAL AREAS

Policy on native names in Quebec and its 1991 revision

Paper submitted by Canada**

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** Prepared by the Commission de toponymie du Québec.

Summary

In essence, the current policy was maintained and it was repeated that it is up to the Commission members to decide on each name, and on the other elements as a whole, and hence to take into account their length, the region, and so forth. The purpose of the most important new elements adopted, however, is to ensure even if there are valid reasons that preclude making certain indigenous names the official names, that these indigenous names are disseminated as widely as possible as variants, either on the maps themselves or in the Directory of Place Names, even when they are mentioned in our Dictionary, the aim being to promote the greatest possible awareness among non-indigenous people of this language situation which is not easy to grasp. It was also recalled that, in areas of linguistic contacts, bodies working in those regions should be consulted before the place names are made in official order to verify in a systematic manner what the local usage is.